



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 1/18/2005

GAIN Report Number: TH5006

Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

Approved by:

Rodrick McSherry, Agricultural Counselor
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok

Prepared by:

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Export prices remained under upward pressure due to limited exportable supplies and stronger Thai Baht.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Jan. 17):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	450	435	450	456	435	435	425	440	443
WR 100 B	295	292	295	296	290	294	292	293	289
PB 5%	288	283	295	297	285	294	282	289	287
WR 5%	290	287	290	290	285	289	287	288	284
WR 10%	285	282	285	288	283	286	282	284	280
WR 15%	278	276	280	285	279	282	277	280	276
WR 25%	270	265	265	283	261	264	272	269	267
WR 35%	267	261	-	280	259	262	267	266	263
A 1 SUP	229	228	-	225	226	228	225	228	224
A 1 SPEC	228	227	-	222	224	-	223	226	222
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for all grades of white rice remained under upward pressure from limited exportable supplies, fueled by continued strengthening of the Thai Baht. Despite quiet new order demand, export price continued to increase, as local millers focused on the government intervention program, leading to less available supplies to exporters. As of Jan. 17, 2005, the government bought around 2.6 million tons of paddy, of which 1.8 million tons were white rice paddy, and 0.8 million tons were fragrant rice paddy. Currently, exporters who are fulfilling their outstanding contracts were reportedly suffering from the upward price pressure from tight supply situation. Also, the Thai Baht strengthened further to 38.4 Baht/US\$, as compared to 39.05 Baht/US\$ last Monday. However, trade sources reported that price difference between Thai and Indian parboiled rice was noticeably narrowing to around US\$ 10/MT, as compared to around US\$ 30/MT in the previous to week.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
DEC 5	164,956	158,662	7,425	4,818
DEC 12	131,152	148,071	7,556	4,936
DEC 19	112,254	141,983	7,668	5,045
DEC 26	106,103	128,616	7,775	5,177
DEC 31	88,510	-	7,863	5,299
JAN 2	3,045	-	3	5
JAN 9	121,108	-	124	76
JAN 16	169,028	-	293	193

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Jan. 10-16 totaled 169,028 tons. Meanwhile, exports during Jan. 1-16, 2005 amounted to 293,181 tons, compared with 193,133 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2004, amounted to 10,132,037 tons, up 35 percent from 7,529,370 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Dec. 27-31, 2004, Jan. 3-7, and Jan 10-14, 2005 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Dec. 27-31	Jan. 3-7	Jan. 10-14
weekly sales	78,251	189,637	133,527
4 week sum	485,634	-	-
4 week mov. avg.	121,409	-	-
Total weekly sales	8,854,088	189,637	323,164

End of Report.